

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated June 1, 2004. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the allowance of claims 3-5 and 7-9 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 2.

By the present Amendment, claim 2 has been rewritten into independent form to incorporate all subject matter of its parent claim 1 to place it in condition for allowance in light of the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, and allowance of independent claim 2, is respectfully requested. Regarding this, it is noted that independent claim 1 has now been canceled, without prejudice to the Applicants' right to proceed with the filing of a Continuation application directed to the subject matter of claim 1.

Also the by the present Amendment, the subject matter from claim 1 which has been incorporated into claim 2 has been amended to overcome the objection to the to the original wording of claim 1 set forth in the claim objection at the bottom of page 2 in the Office Action. In addition, each of claims 3, 4 and 5 has been amended to address the issues raised at the top of page 3 of the Office Action. Therefore, removal of the objections to these claims is respectfully requested.

Finally, by the present Amendment, claim 6 has been amended to depend on independent claim 2 rather than the canceled claim 1. With regard to claim 6, it is noted that it is stated on page 4 of the Office Action that "claims 3-9 are allowed." On the other hand, claim 6 is rejected in the rejection set forth on page 3 of the

Office Action. In any event, inasmuch as claim 6 has now been made dependent on claim 2 (which has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter), it is Applicants' understanding that claim 6 should now also be in condition for allowance.


In light of the above noted amendments to claims 2-6, allowance of claims 2-6, together with claims 7-9, indicated as allowable, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.38344CC2), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By 

Gregory E. Montone
Reg. No. 28,141

GEM/dlt

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Telephone: (703) 312-6600
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666